

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. Cancelled.
2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said plurality of joists are bar joists.
3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said plurality of joists are open-web joists.
4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said plurality of joists are shaped-steel.
5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising a suspension connector operatively attached to at least one of said plurality of hubs.
6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further wherein said plurality of joists and plurality of hubs are capable of being articulated from a first position to a second position.
7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said plurality of hubs include a plurality of openings configured to receive said plurality of joists.
8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein said plurality of openings include at least one slot.
9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising said work platform.
10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein said suspension connector is a chain.
11. (Currently Amended) A work platform support system comprising:

a plurality of joists; and

a plurality of hubs;

wherein the plurality of joists comprises four joists and wherein the plurality of hubs comprises four hubs;

wherein: i) one of the joists and two of the hubs are stationary; ii) two of the joists are rotatable; and iii) two of the hubs and one of the joists are translatable; ~~and~~

wherein the two rotatable joists, the two translatable hubs, and the one translatable joist can articulate from an initial position to a final position with respect to the stationary joist and the stationary hubs so as to receive a work platform; and

wherein the plurality of joists are substantially co-planar with respect to each other in the initial and the final positions.

12. Cancelled.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein at least one of the hubs comprises:

a first surface with a first set of openings;

a second surface substantially parallel to said first surface, said second surface having a second set of openings; and

a structural element ~~interspersed~~ connected between said first surface and said second surface;

wherein at least one of said first set and said second set of openings is adapted to provide an articulation of said device when interconnected with said at least one joist;

wherein each one of the openings in the first set of openings is co-axial with a respective one of the openings in the second set of openings.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein said first surface is substantially planar.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein said second surface is substantially planar.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein said structural element is a cylinder.
17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein said structural element is a right circular cylinder.
18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein a longitudinal axis of said right circular cylinder is normal to said first surface and said second surface.
19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein said first surface and said second surface interconnect with said at least one joist.
20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein one of said first surface and said second surface includes a support opening, wherein said support opening is configured to receive an attachment means.
21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein said attachment means is a chain.
22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein said support opening includes a slot.
23. (Currently Amended) A work platform system comprising:
- at least four hub mechanisms;
 - at least four joist mechanisms, each of the four joist mechanisms interconnected with at least two of the four hub mechanisms; and
 - wherein: i) one of the joist mechanisms and two of the hub mechanisms are stationary; ii) two of the joist mechanisms are rotatable; and iii) two of the hub mechanisms and one of the joist mechanisms are translatable; and
 - wherein the two rotatable joist mechanisms, the two translatable hub mechanisms, and the one translatable joist mechanism can articulate from an initial position to a final position with respect to the stationary joist mechanism and the stationary hub mechanisms so as to receive a work platform; and

wherein the at least four joist mechanisms are substantially co-planar with respect to each other in the initial and the final positions.

24. (Currently Amended) A work platform system for suspending a work platform from a structure, said system comprising:

a plurality of joists;

at least one of a plurality of hubs for interconnecting at least two of said plurality of joists; and

a suspension connector for suspending at least one of the plurality of joists and at least one of the plurality of hubs from a structure;

wherein the plurality of joists comprises four joists and wherein the plurality of hubs comprises four hubs;

wherein: i) one of the joists and two of the hubs are stationary; ii) two of the joists are rotatable; and iii) two of the hubs and one of the joists are translatable; and

wherein the two rotatable joists, the two translatable hubs, and the one translatable joist can articulate from an initial position to a final position with respect to the stationary joist and the stationary hubs so as to receive a work platform; and

wherein the plurality of joists are substantially coplanar with respect to each other in the initial and the final positions.

25. Cancelled.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of installing a work platform support system with respect to a structure, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of joists and a plurality of hubs, the plurality of joists comprising four joists and the plurality of hubs comprising four hubs;

pivotaly attaching the plurality of hubs to the plurality of joists such that: i) one of the joists and two of the hubs are stationary; ii) two of the joists are rotatable; and iii) two of the hubs and one of the joists are translatable; and

articulating the two rotatable joists, the two translatable hubs, and the one translatable joist from an initial position to a final position with respect to the stationary joist and the stationary hubs so as to receive a work platform;

wherein the plurality of joists are substantially co-planar with respect to each other in the initial and the final positions.

27. Cancelled

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the articulating does not require any hoisting equipment.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the articulating is completed in a cantilevered manner.

30. (Currently Amended) A work platform structure comprising:

a first hub connected in fixed relation to a second hub using a first joist; and
a third hub connected to a fourth hub using a second joist, the third and the fourth hubs further connected to the first and the second hubs using third and fourth joists;

wherein the second, the third and the fourth joists, and the third and the fourth hubs articulate from an initial position to an extended position with respect to the first and second hubs and the first joist to receive and support a work platform;

wherein each of the first, second, third and the fourth joists extends substantially perpendicularly with respect to an axis of at least one of the respective first, second, third and fourth hubs about which the respective joists rotate;

wherein the first, second, third and the fourth joists are substantially co-planar with respect to each other in the initial and the extended positions.

31. (Previously Presented) The work platform of claim 30 wherein at least one of the second, the third and the fourth joists rotates with respect to at least one of the first hub and the second hub.

32. (Previously Presented) The work platform of claim 30 wherein at least one of the second, the third and the fourth joists translates with respect to at least one of the first joist, the first hub and the second hub.
33. (Previously Presented) The work platform of claim 30 wherein at least one of the second, the third and the fourth joists pivots with respect to at least one of the third hub and the fourth hub.
34. (Currently Amended) A work platform structure comprising:
- a first pair of hubs connected in fixed relation to each other using a first joist; and
 - a second pair of hubs connected to each other using a second joist, the second pair of hubs further connected to the first pair of hubs using third and fourth joists;
- wherein the second, the third and the fourth joists and the second pair of hubs articulate from an initial position to a final position with respect to the first pair of hubs and the first joist to receive and support a work platform;
- wherein each of the first, second, third and the fourth joists extends substantially perpendicularly with respect to an axis of at least one of the respective hubs in the first and the second pair of hubs about which the respective joists rotate; and
- wherein the first, second, third and the fourth joists are substantially co-planar with respect to each other in the initial and the final positions.
35. (Previously Presented) The work platform of claim 34 wherein the second joist, the third joist or the fourth joist rotates with respect to the first hub or the second hub.
36. (Previously Presented) The work platform of claim 35 wherein the second joist, the third joist or the fourth joist translates with respect to the first joist, the first hub or the second hub.
37. (Previously Presented) The work platform of claim 36 wherein the second joist, the third joist or the fourth joist pivots with respect to the third hub or the fourth hub.
38. (Currently Amended) A work platform structure comprising:

a first hub and joist assembly comprising pair of hubs connected in fixed relation to each other using a first joist; and

a second hub and joist assembly comprising a pair of hubs connected to each other using a second joist, the pair of hubs further connected to third and fourth joists;

wherein the second hub and joist assembly articulates with respect to the first hub and joist assembly to receive and support a work platform;

wherein each of the joists in the first and the second hub and joist assemblies extends substantially perpendicularly with respect to an axis of at least one of the respective first, second, third and fourth hubs about which the respective joists rotate; and

wherein each of the joists in the first and the second hub and joist assemblies is substantially co-planar with respect to each other in an initial position and an extended position.

39. (Previously Presented) The work platform of claim 38 wherein at least one of the second, the third and the fourth joists rotates with respect to at least one of the first hub and the second hub; wherein at least one of the second, the third and the fourth joists translates with respect to at least one of the first joist, the first hub and the second hub; and wherein at least one of the second, the third and the fourth joists pivots with respect to the third hub and the fourth hub.

40. A work platform structure comprising:

a stationary first joist having fixed first and second hubs connected thereto;

a rotatable second joist connected to either the first or the second hub,

a rotatable third joist connected to the other of the first or the second hub;

a third hub connected to either the rotatable second joist or the rotatable third joist and a fourth hub connected to the other of the second or the third joist; and

a fourth joist connected to the third and the fourth hubs;

wherein the second, third and fourth joists and the third and fourth hubs together articulate with respect to the stationary first joist and fixed first and second hubs from an initial position to a final position in which a work platform can be received and supported;

wherein each of the first, second, third and the fourth hubs comprises a first surface with a first set of openings; a second surface substantially parallel to said first surface and having a second set of openings; and a structural element connected between the first surface and the second surface, such that each one of the openings in the first set of openings is co-axial with a respective one of the openings in the second set of openings; and

wherein the first, second, third and the fourth joists are substantially co-planar with respect to each other in both the initial and the final positions.

41. (Previously Presented) The work platform structure of claim 40 wherein the second joist, the third joist or the fourth joist translates with respect to the first joist, the first hub or the second hub.

42. (Previously Presented) The work platform of claim 41 wherein the second joist, the third joist or the fourth joist pivots with respect to the third hub or the fourth hub.

43. (Currently Amended) A work platform structure comprising:

a first hub and joist assembly comprising a stationary first joist and a pair of hubs connected to the first joist; and

a second hub and joist assembly comprising a rotatable second joist, a rotatable third joist and a translatable fourth joist, the second, third and fourth joists connected together using a pair of hubs;

wherein at least two of the three joists of the second hub and joist assembly are connected to the hubs of the first hub and joist assembly; and

wherein the second hub and joist assembly articulates with respect to the first hub and joist assembly in order to receive and support a work platform;

wherein each of the hubs in the first and the second hub and joist assemblies comprises a first surface with a first set of openings; a second surface substantially parallel to said first surface and having a second set of openings; and a structural element connected

between the first surface and the second surface, such that each one of the openings in the first set of openings is co-axial with a respective one of the openings in the second set of openings; and

wherein each of the joists in the first and the second hub and joist assemblies is substantially co-planar with respect to each other in a first initial position and a second extended position.

44. (Previously Presented) The work platform structure of claim 43 wherein the second joist, the third joist or the fourth joist pivots with respect to the third hub or the fourth hub.

45. (Currently Amended) In a work platform structure comprising a first hub connected in fixed relation to a second hub using first joist and a third hub connected to a fourth hub using a second joist, the third and the fourth hubs further connected to the first and the second hubs using third and fourth joists, a method of making a work platform structure, the method comprising:

articulating the second, the third and the fourth joists, and the third and the fourth hubs with respect to the first and second hubs and the first joist, from an initial position to a final position to receive and support a work platform;

wherein each of the first, second, third and the fourth hubs comprises a first surface with a first set of openings; a second surface substantially parallel to said first surface and having a second set of openings; and a structural element connected between the first surface and the second surface, such that each one of the openings in the first set of openings is co-axial with a respective one of the openings in the second set of openings; and

wherein the first, second, third and fourth joists are substantially co-planar with respect to each other in the initial and the final positions.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the articulating further comprises rotating at least one of the second, the third and the fourth joists with respect to the at least one of the first hub and the second hub.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the articulating further comprises translating at least one of the second, the third and the fourth joists with respect to at least one of the first joist, the first hub and the second hub.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the articulating further comprises pivoting at least one of the second, the third and the fourth joists with respect to the third hub and the fourth hub.

49. A method of assembling a work platform, the method comprising:

providing an articulatable work platform assembly comprising a plurality of hub mechanisms and a plurality of joist mechanisms connected to the plurality of hub mechanisms;

articulating the articulatable work platform assembly from an initial position to a final position, the articulating including at least one of rotating and translating one or more of the plurality of joist mechanisms with respect to one or more of the plurality of hub mechanisms;

connecting a suspension mechanism to the articulated work platform assembly in the final position; and

suspending the work platform assembly in its final position from a structure to secure the articulated work platform assembly;

wherein the plurality of joists mechanisms are substantially co-planar with respect to each other in the initial and the final positions.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49 wherein the articulating includes cantilevering one or more of the plurality of joist mechanisms with respect to one or more of the hub mechanisms.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the providing, articulating, installing and suspending are performed at least twice so as to assemble a work platform.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49 wherein the providing, articulating, installing and suspending are performed at least twice so as to assemble a work platform.

53. (New) The system of Claim 11, wherein each of the plurality of joists extends substantially perpendicularly with respect to an axis of at least one of the respective plurality of hubs about which the respective joists rotate.

54. (New) The work platform of Claim 30, wherein each of the first, second, third and the fourth hubs comprises:

a first surface with a first set of openings;

a second surface substantially parallel to said first surface, said second surface having a second set of openings; and

a structural element connected between said first surface and said second surface;

wherein each one of the openings in the first set of openings is co-axial with a respective one of the openings in the second set of openings.

55. (New) The work platform structure of Claim 40, wherein each of the first, second, third and the fourth joists extends substantially perpendicularly with respect to an axis of at least one of the respective first, second, third and the fourth hubs about which the respective joists rotate.

56. (New) A method of assembling a work platform assembly *in situ*, the method comprising:

providing at least four hub mechanisms, each of the hub mechanisms comprising a first surface with a first set of openings; a second surface substantially parallel to said first surface and having a second set of openings, such that each one of the openings in the first set of openings is co-axial with a respective one of the openings in the second set of openings; and a structural element connected between the first surface and the second surface such that a longitudinal axis of the structural element is at least substantially normal to the planes of the first and the second surfaces;

providing at least four joist mechanisms in operable association with the at least four hub mechanisms, such that each of the at least four joist mechanisms extends substantially perpendicularly with respect to an axis of at least one of the respective at least four hub mechanisms about which the respective joists rotate;

connecting each of the at least four joist mechanisms with two of the at least four hub mechanisms for providing free rotation therebetween, the connection between one of the at least four joist mechanisms and one of the at least four hub mechanisms obtained by passing

a fastening means through an opening at one end of the joist mechanism and the respective co-axial openings in each of the respective first and the second set of openings;

articulating at least some of the at least four hub mechanisms and the at least four joist mechanisms from an initial position to a final position, the articulating including at least one of rotating, pivoting and translating one or more of the at least four joist mechanisms with respect to one or more of the at least four hub mechanisms for forming a closed-loop structure;

positioning a work platform upon at least one of the at least four joist mechanisms, the at least four hub mechanisms, or a combination thereof for forming a work platform system;

wherein the at least four joist mechanisms are substantially co-planar in the initial and the final positions.

57. (New) The method of Claim 56, wherein articulating the at least four hub mechanisms and the at least four joist mechanisms further comprises cantilevering one or more of the at least four joist mechanisms with respect to one or more of the at least four hub mechanisms.

58. (New) A work platform assembly comprising:

first, second, third and fourth hub mechanisms, each of the hub mechanisms comprising a first surface with a first set of openings; a second surface substantially parallel to said first surface and having a second set of openings, such that each one of the openings in the first set of openings is co-axial with a respective one of the openings in the second set of openings; and a structural element connected between the first surface and the second surface such that a longitudinal axis of the structural element is at least substantially normal to the planes of the first and the second surfaces;

first, second, third and fourth joist mechanisms in operable association with the first, second, third and fourth hub mechanisms, such that each of the first, second, third and the fourth joist mechanisms extends substantially perpendicularly with respect to an axis of at least one of the respective first, second, third and the fourth hub mechanisms about which the respective joists rotate;

a work platform positioned upon at least one of the first, second, third and the fourth joist mechanisms, the first, second, third and the fourth hub mechanisms, or a combination thereof for forming a work platform system;

wherein (i) the first hub mechanism is connected in fixed relation to the second hub mechanism using the first joist mechanism; (ii) the third hub mechanism is connected to the fourth hub mechanism using the second joist mechanism; and (iii) the third and the fourth joist mechanisms are connected to the first and the third, and the second and the fourth hub mechanisms respectively;

wherein at least one of the second, third and the fourth joist mechanisms, and at least one of the third and the fourth hub mechanisms articulate from an initial position to a final position by at least one of translating, rotating and pivoting with respect to the first and the second hub mechanisms and the first joist mechanism to obtain a closed-loop structure such that the first and the third joist mechanisms are substantially parallel to the second and the fourth joist mechanisms respectively in the final position upon articulation; and

wherein each of the first, second, third and fourth joist mechanisms is substantially co-planar in the initial and the final positions.

59. (New) The work platform assembly of Claim 58, wherein the work platform system is capable of supporting at least four times an intended live load applied, or transmitted upon the work platform system.

60. (New) The work platform assembly of Claim 58, wherein the articulation of the second, third and the fourth joist mechanisms, and the third and the fourth hub mechanisms is achieved in a cantilevered manner without requiring any hoisting equipment.

61. (New) A method of assembling a work platform assembly, the method comprising:
providing a plurality hub mechanisms;

providing a plurality of joist mechanisms connected to at least one of the plurality of hub mechanisms for allowing free rotation of both the joist and the hub mechanisms, such that each of the plurality of joist mechanisms extend substantially perpendicularly with respect to an axis of at least one of the respective plurality of hub mechanisms about which the respective joists rotate;

articulating at least some of the plurality of joist mechanisms with respect to the plurality of hub mechanisms from a first initial position to a second extended position, the articulating including at least one of rotating, translating, pivoting and cantilevering through a substantial angle; and

wherein the plurality of joist mechanisms are substantially co-planar in the first initial position and the second extended position.

62. (New) The method of Claim 61, wherein each of the plurality of hub mechanisms comprises:

a first surface having a first set of openings;

a second surface parallel to the first surface and having a second set of openings;

a structural element connected between the first and the second surfaces such that a longitudinal axis of the structural element is normal to the plane of the first and the second surfaces; and

wherein each one of the openings in the first set of openings is co-axial with a respective one of the openings in the second set of openings.